



GV

431

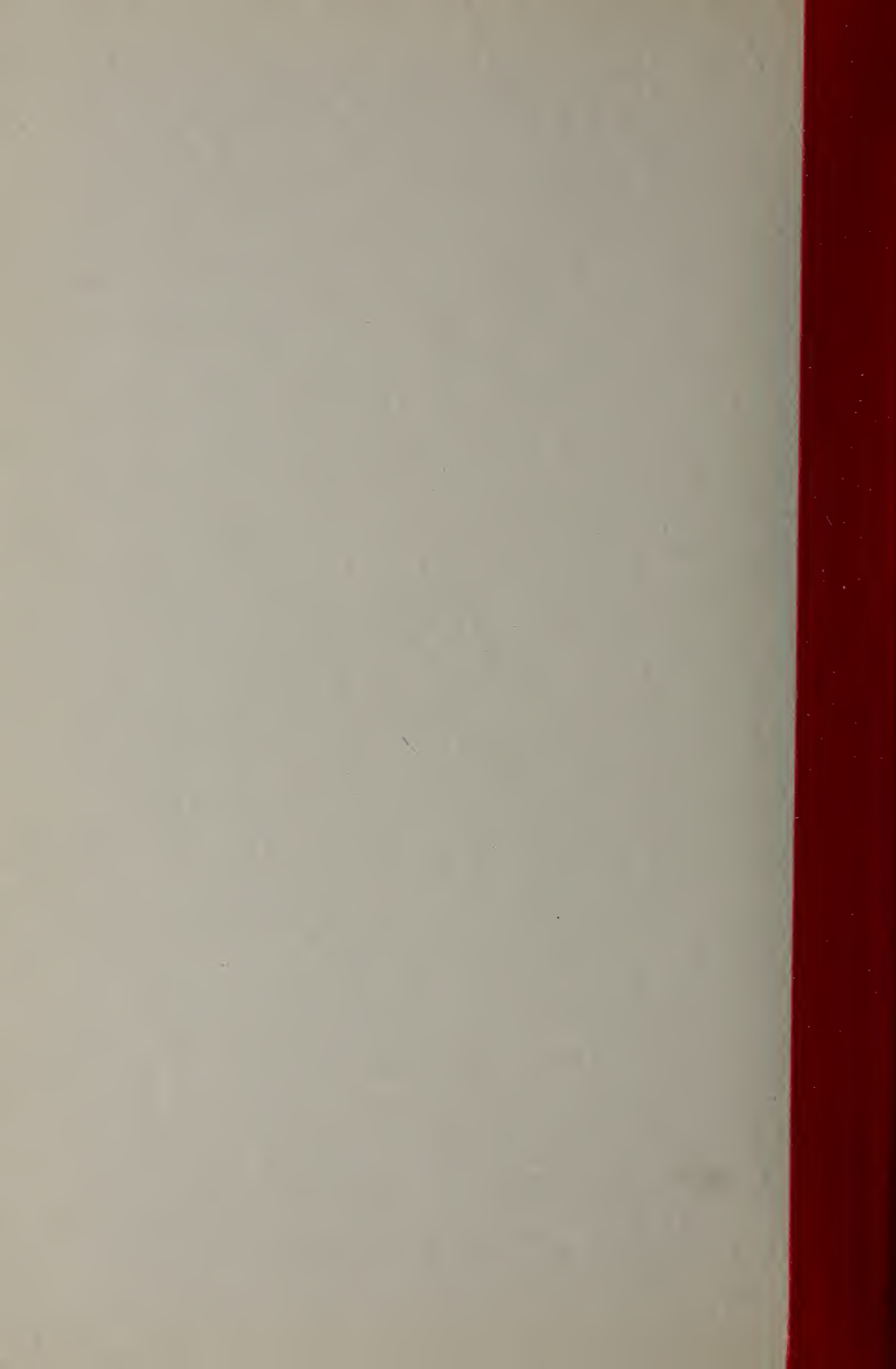
S2C5

1903

Author

Title

Imprint



REPORT OF THE OPEN AIR
PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

THE LIBRARY OF
THE
CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE
DECEMBER 1903

1903

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE ST. LOUIS

REPORT OF THE OPEN AIR
PLAYGROUNDS COMMITTEE
CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE

"

1903

COMMITTEE

DWIGHT F. DAVIS, Chairman
LUTHER ELY SMITH REV. H. W. MIZNER
GERARD SWOPE CHARLES P. PETTUS
THOMAS G. RUTLEDGE, Sec'y & Treas.

FREE OPEN AIR PLAYGROUNDS
SAINT LOUIS

THE Civic Improvement League

The Civic Improvement League of St. Louis is designed to unite the efforts of all citizens who want to make St. Louis a better place to live in, and every citizen is asked to become a member. Its general purposes are to create a public sentiment in favor of better administration of municipal affairs, without in any way invading the domain of politics. The League will work for a strict enforcement of all the ordinances now existing that are designed to make the city clean, healthy and attractive. It will work for the enactment of such other ordinances as may be needed to improve the city's appearance. The League's purposes are not chiefly aesthetic, though they all lie in the direction of cultivating a taste for municipal beauty. The League intends to carry on a continuous campaign among the people, by lectures to the school children, and before social and fraternal organizations of all sorts, in which the advantages of a finer city will be brought home to all. These lectures will not set up impossible ideals of city-beautifying, but will be addressed to the practical reforms that suggest themselves to even the most unobservant persons in their daily walks in the city. The League does not hope to transform St. Louis into another Paris at once. The organization will disseminate literature on the general subject of city improvement, showing what has been, or is being done elsewhere. The League will co-operate earnestly with every other organization that has similar objects, and will interest itself in the efforts for betterment made by residents in all sections of the city. The League, in brief, aims to work up steadily a sentiment among the people in favor of a new, bright and better improved city.

ANNUAL DUES, \$2.00.

ANNUAL HONORARY DUES, \$25.00.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE

Mechanics National Bank Bldg.

Broadway and Locust

Telephone, Main 4835a

ST. LOUIS

GIFT

MRS. WOODROW WILSON

NOV. 25, 1939

OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE

President:

Edward C. Eliot.

Vice-Presidents:

O. L. Whitelaw,
Julius Pitzman,
A. A. B. Woerheide,
Pierre Chouteau,
Mrs. Geo. O. Carpenter,
Mrs. Louis Marion McCall.

Treasurer:

Richard Singer, 315 N. 4th
Street.

Secretary:

Earle Layman, 605 Mechan-
ics National Bank Bldg.

Corresponding Secretary:

Wm. B. Ittner, 911 Locust
Street.

Auditor:

Jones, Caesar & Co.

Counsel:

Finkelnburg, Nagel & Kirby
Henry T. Kent,
Luther Ely Smith.

Executive Committee:

Julius Pitzman, Chairman,
Oscar L. Whitelaw,
F. M. Crunden,
Geo. Q. Thornton,
T. S. McPheeters.

Press Committee:

G. F. A. Brueggeman, Chm.,
E. C. Rowse,
Wm. Trelease,
Wm. M. Reedy.

Legislation Committee:

Henry T. Kent, Chairman,
E. L. Adreon,
Daniel N. Kirby.

Open Air Play Ground Com- mittee:

Dwight F. Davis, Chairman,
Thos. G. Rutledge, Treas.,
Luther Ely Smith,
Rev. H. W. Mizner,
Chas. Pettus,
Girard Swope.

Free Bath Committee:

Hugh McKittrick, Chm.,
Dwight F. Davis,
Victor Hugo,
E. J. Russell.

Waste Paper Box Committee:

A. G. Fish, Chairman,
A. H. Foote.

Public Sanitation Committee:

B. J. Taussig, Chairman,
J. Hal Lynch,
Philip C. Scanlan,
Gouverneur Calhoun,
Geo. O. Carpenter.

Membership Committee:

Gouverneur Calhoun, Chm.,
Dr. E. C. Runge,
Solomon L. Swarts,
C. B. Allen,
Wm. E. Baird,
J. H. Gundlach,
Mrs. L. A. Wiggin,
Miss Isabel Lane,
A. H. Richardson,
Fred Allen.

Vacant Lot Committee:

Rev. Wm. Short, Chairman,
W. R. Donaldson, Jr.
S. B. Sheldon,
Trescott F. Chaplin,
W. L. Nichols.

Statuary Committee:

Prof. J. L. Van Ornum, Chm.,
W. S. Eames,
Robert P. Bringham,
Wm. B. Ittner.

Junior Horticultural Farm and School Gardens Committee:

W. J. Stevens, Chairman,
Mrs. F. L. Lachmund,
Miss Mary F. Boyce,
Charles Stix,
Geo. O. Carpenter,
Eugene H. Angert.

Tree Planting Committee:

H. C. Irish, Chairman,
Leo C. Dziatzko,
W. J. Stevens,
Herman von Schrenk.

Wide Tire Committee:

W. S. Stuyvesant, Chairman,
Henry T. Kent.

Water Purification Committee:

Prof. J. L. Van Ornum.

Suburban Improvement Com- mittee:

Herman C. Stifel, Chairman,
J. L. Van Ornum,
Julius Pitzman,
Geo. E. Kessler,
Henry Wright.

Signs and Sign Boards Com- mittee:

L. L. Leonard, Chairman,
John H. Roth,
J. L. Mauran,
Geo. W. Lubke, Jr.
Edw. C. Rowse,
Daniel N. Kirby.

Historic Tablet Committee:

E. J. Russell, Chairman,
John Schroers,
A. W. Douglas,
Miss Ella Cochran,
Prof. M. S. Snow.

Street Naming Committee:

C. R. Croninger, Chairman,
Leo C. Dziatzko.

Ladies' Sanitary Committee:

Mrs. Louis Marion McCall,
Chairman,
Mrs. A. G. Fish, Vice-Chm.,
Mrs. E. A. DeWolf,
Mrs. Jonathan Rice,
Mrs. E. W. Pattison,
Mrs. W. S. Scott,
Mrs. J. L. Mauran,
Mrs. Henry Blattner,
Mrs. Geo. D. Markham,
Mrs. John Fowler,
Mrs. Jno. Nickerson,
Mrs. A. T. Thomson.

Tenement House Committee:

Lester M. Hall, Chairman,
C. F. Longfellow, Vice-Chm.,
S. W. Fordyce, Jr.,
Robt. Rutledge,
Mrs. L. M. McCall,
Eugene Sarber,
J. H. Lynch.

Pure Milk Committee:

William Chauvenet, Chm.,
Charlotte Rumbold,
D. H. Clarke.

General Committee:

E. L. Adreon,
G. F. A. Brueggeman,
Robert P. Bringham,
Wm. H. Bryan,
J. Charles Cabanne,
Geo. O. Carpenter,
Mrs. Geo. O. Carpenter,
Pierre Chouteau,
W. M. Chauvenet,
C. C. Crone,
Frederick M. Crunden,
Frank P. Crunden,
Dwight F. Davis,
Lionberger Davis,
Rev. J. W. Day,
Mrs. W. E. Fischel,
A. H. Foote,
J. H. Gundlach,
W. E. Guy,
Dr. Geo. Homan,
Wm. B. Ittner,
O. F. Karbe,
Henry T. Kent,
Max Kotany,
Geo. B. Leighton,
Geo. W. Lubke, Jr.,
Hugh McKittrick,
Mrs. Louis Marion McCall,
Elias Michael,
Robt. Moore,
Dan C. Nugent,
Mrs. E. W. Pattison,
Julius Pitzman,
Clarkson Potter,
Wm. M. Reedy,
J. H. Roth,
E. C. Rowse,
Dr. Edw. C. Runge,
Richard Singer,
Prof. L. F. Soldan,
E. J. Spencer,
Geo. Q. Thornton,
Wm. Trelease,
Oscar L. Whitelaw,
A. A. B. Woerheide,
Judge H. D. Wood,
A. J. Wiehardt,

INTRODUCTION.

THE officers of the Civic Improvement League take pleasure in presenting to the public a full detailed report of the work of its Open Air Playgrounds Committee during the Summer of 1903. The work has been voluntary on the part of the Committee, and has proven one of the most popular and beneficial of the many public enterprises this League is interested in bringing about here in St. Louis. We trust that the direct result of this work will be that the people will insist upon the city taking up the work and establishing open air playgrounds and breathing places in the crowded districts of St. Louis.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE.

The playgrounds movement has three definite aims: the first, to provide a place of recreation and a breathing spot for the children in the congested districts of the city; the second, to prepare them for a useful and honorable career in life by teaching them the fundamental virtue of honesty, fair play and a thorough respect for themselves and for others; the third, to decrease crime and lawlessness among the idle children by giving them healthful and enjoyable occupation.

“Play” is the fundamental feature of the playgrounds; play, free, joyous and unrestrained, encouraged—not checked—by the directors in charge. The directors encourage the playing of group games in which each child learns to respect the rights of its neighbor. From this the next transition step is to “team play,” in which each works for the benefit of the whole, subordinating individuality to the common welfare. From a creature of primitive instincts, warring upon its fellows, seeking only its individual welfare, the child becomes a law-abiding citizen of its little community, insisting as urgently as ever on its individual rights, yet realizing that others also have rights and that sometimes the individual wishes must be subservient to the general welfare of the community. Thus the social lesson progresses and the child early changes from a self-seeking individual to a social being, and the foundation is laid for the development of a valuable member of society instead of the tough to whom “society owes a living,” and who means to get payment in the easiest possible way. In this and in countless other ways the playground teaches its lesson. The child learns the necessity of law and order, for cleanliness and decency, and carries the lessons learned in the playgrounds into the larger community of life. Little Maggie Donovan, in talking to one of the directors, gave a good illustration of the spirit fostered by the playgrounds. It seems that a six-year-old friend of hers was presented with two cents one day and generously shared with Maggie the candy purchased with this fortune. When told of this the next day the director said, “she was very good to you, wasn’t she, Maggie?” “But, teacher,” said Maggie, “what’s the use of living if you aren’t good to one another?”

The playgrounds’ influence is not restricted to the narrow confines of the grounds, but reaches far beyond into the home and the com-

munity life. Through the children the parents are brought within its influence. The directors reported many cases where the parents would read aloud to the assembled family the books brought by the children from the playgrounds library; the men in many of the neighborhoods asked to be allowed to use the shower baths at night, a privilege readily granted; mothers went with their children on several of the excursions; and whole families attended the evening concerts.

In the decreasing of juvenile crime, also, the playgrounds prove of great value to the municipality. The president of the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, testifying before the State Legislature last February, said, "My observation is that the great majority, probably 90 per cent, of the habitual or chronic criminals are persons who have committed their first offense against the laws when children under the age of sixteen years." Statistics show that the increase of juvenile crime in the summer time is about 60 per cent, so that probably 54 per cent of our habitual criminals took their first steps in crime during the summer time, while they were still children. The police reports show that the decrease in juvenile crime in the neighborhoods in which the playgrounds were situated, amounted to 50 per cent while the grounds were open. In other words, 27 per cent of our habitual criminals would in all probability not have been led astray if they had been subjected to the influence of the playgrounds. The importance of this to the municipality cannot be estimated. Leaving aside from the discussion the altruistic result in training embryo criminals into law-abiding citizens, the economy to the city in the matter of the police, the courts and the prisons, is of itself a sufficient reason for the establishment of playgrounds by the municipality. Mayor Low, of New York, speaking of the expenditures of millions by that city for playgrounds, said, "It has never made a better investment, in my judgment, than these playgrounds will prove to be." A prominent police captain of this city said to me, "You know, you gentlemen do more to prevent crime among the children than the whole police force." Prevention of crime, not punishment therefor, should be the aim, and the results have proven the value of the playgrounds in this respect. The police reports printed later in this report, are of interest in this connection. Chief of Police Kiely writes, "I am convinced that the Civic Improvement League's Playgrounds are most commendable institutions." Captain O'Malley, of the fifth district, writes, "The playground has been a great benefit to the children residing in the neighborhood and I consider it a great preventive of juvenile crime and disorder." The captain of the third district, reports: "The playgrounds are of great benefit to families living in the crowded tenement districts as it gives the children not only needed exercise,

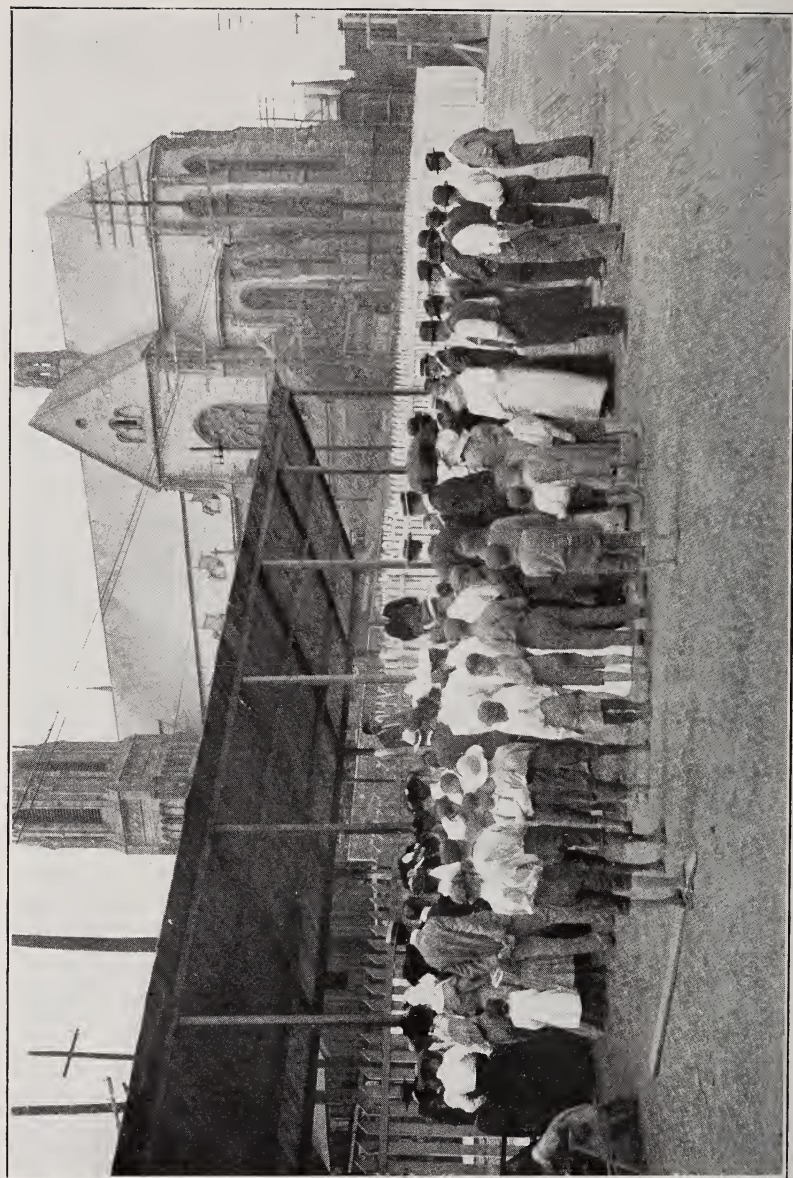
but keeps them out of mischief and danger as well, and with free baths, encourages cleanliness, in fact, it tends to uplift them both morally and physically."

Your committee most earnestly suggests that efforts be made to induce the city authorities to establish free playgrounds in various parts of the city. It is the duty of the municipality, not of private citizens, to safeguard the interests of children.

The weekly concerts given by members of the Musicians' Union, who volunteered their services, were the source of greatest pleasure to both old and young. The average attendance at these concerts was about three thousand, and it was an inspiring sight to see the older people listening to the music while the young ones danced and played to the joyous strains. The concerts were a great factor in drawing the older people to the grounds and in showing them the advantages of such a place for their children to play. The memory of the happy faces clustered round the bandstand, of the hearty bursts of applause and of the voices of the children joining in when a familiar air was played, tells the story in a way which to the musicians who generously gave the concerts must be more of a gratification than any mere words of praise.

The baths were the most popular feature of the grounds. The experiment of keeping the baths open in the evening was tried at some of the grounds, at the request of many of the residents of the neighborhoods, and proved a great success. The children were taught that cleanliness of body was a pre-requisite to the enjoyment of the grounds, and soon it became a disgrace for a child to come to the playgrounds with dirty hands and face. This feeling was carried into the home life of the children. Little Sadie Becker, of the LaSalle ground wrote to one of the directors that she had made a shower bath at home by punching holes in a piece of tin and fastening it under the hydrant, and that each day the baby, dolly and the cat were given a shower. (The Civic Improvement League now has one bitter enemy—the cat.) The great popularity of the baths among the children and the evident desire of the older people for cleanliness, emphasize the necessity for the establishment of public baths in the crowded parts of the city.

The library feature, too, was much appreciated. The children were allowed to take the books home and keep them a week, but they usually returned them in two or three days, so that they could get others. The librarian reports that fairy stories and books with a moral seemed to be the favorites. These appealed to the imaginations and undeveloped ideals of the children and took them, for a little while, away from their sordid surroundings. The parents



MAYOR WELLS DEDICATING THE PLAYGROUNDS.

seemed to take as keen an interest in the books as the children, and mothers would often come to the playground to ask the director to explain some passage or allusion which they could not understand.

The committee decided some six months before the playground season opened, to attempt the experiment of a library of books and magazines at each of the playgrounds. The result completely justified the efforts made. A large number of volumes was collected. The work of arranging and cataloging the books thus accumulated was a tedious and difficult task. But here again the committee was amply supported by its friends. A number of young ladies, under the direction of Miss Marie Scanlan, undertook the task, and after patient and faithful work, extending over several weeks prior to the playground season, the books were properly assorted and classified. Effort was made to grade the books with regard to the age of the children who should read them. The groups of books were then divided among six playgrounds, and ultimately the libraries were installed and put in running order. The directors at each of the playgrounds report that the books were extensively used.

The committee is indebted to the management of the St. Louis Public Library for very valuable suggestions and assistance. The committee believes that there is a valuable field of usefulness for these libraries in the future, for the adults as well as the children.

To carry on an enterprise of this character, much assistance financially and otherwise was needed. Public-spirited citizens cheerfully contributed the money necessary to carry on the work; others no less generous, donated needed material and supplies, while still others gave what was even more necessary for the successful completion of the work, personal thought, time and labor.

The list of benefactors is too long for individual mention. We wish, however, to thank especially those public-spirited friends of the playground movement. Mr. and Mrs. John Fowler, whose thoughtful generosity brought a summer's health and happiness to thousands of children at the Fowler playgrounds; then, too, the various labor unions rendered valuable aid; and lastly, mention should be made of the men and women who devoted their summer's work to the management of the grounds, the directors, their assistants and the volunteers. To each of our generous friends, we express our heartfelt thanks. The pictures of the happy groups, the story of the summer's work and the reports from the police department, included in this report, must show to each that it was not "Love's labor lost," and must give to each a feeling of satisfaction at having been a helping factor in producing such a result.

The details of the summer's work will be found in the report of the secretary. The summary is briefly as follows :

The aggregate attendance was 67,843.

Number of baths given, 41,720.

Twenty-two nationalities were represented in the enrollment, as follows : German, Irish, American, English, French, Scotch, Swiss, Swedes, Italian, Bohemian, Norwegian, Pole, Jew, Dutch, Dane, Indian, Welsh, Scotch-Irish, Hungarian, German-Jew, Canadian, Belgian.

The librarian reports that in one month 1248 books were read. Seven excursions were given to the parks and gardens; eight concerts were given through the generosity of the M. M. B. A.

This, briefly, is the record of the summer's work, in so far as the story can be told by figures. Yet figures are of little value in estimating the good done by the playgrounds. The experience with the children in the grounds; the observation of those trained in the work and familiar with the neighborhood conditions; and lastly the reports of the police force, show the true value of playgrounds to the municipality. Even this, however great as it is, is not the main aim and glory of the grounds. The pleasure given to the little ones, the health developed in sickly bodies, the new-born appreciation of what life means, these are the results to which to look back with pride, and in which all who assisted the work may find their recompense.

So much for the past. In the future we look for an enlightened public sentiment which will demand that the municipal government undertake the maintenance of public playgrounds as training places for the development of able-bodied, healthy-minded men and women, fitted to assume the civic responsibilities of later life. St. Louis in 1904 will be on trial before the world. While spending millions to glorify the progress of civilization, she should spend something to aid in relieving the misery and suffering of her own poor by giving them a chance for a breath of pure air, and a few brief moments of innocent recreation. It is a harsh commentary on our boasted civilization that it allows large masses of its citizens to live in squalor and misery, its children to grow up in an atmosphere of filth, disease and crime, without stretching forth a helping hand to assist in the hard battle. A man bred in an atmosphere of dishonesty, will vote dishonestly, and corruption in public life is the direct result of this civic neglect.

The record of St. Louis, in comparison with other cities, in the matter of expenditures for breathing spots and recreation places, is not gratifying. "Of the fifteen cities of the United States having a population of 280,000 or more, St. Louis is the only one that for the past year did not appropriate money for the laying out of new parks,

New York spending \$5,385,000 and Cleveland, a city much smaller than our own, spending over \$450,000 for this purpose." This the exhibit of the City of St. Louis, in a confessedly important branch of municipal government, to the enlightened visitors from other cities. The special report of Mr. Gerard Swope on the northern playgrounds district is of great interest in this connection. He shows that in a district containing over 30,000 people, many of them herded together in old, unsanitary tenements, with a density of population in some places of over 600 persons per acre, a district literally gridironed with trolley lines, there is but one small park, 305x372 feet, in the largest part of which the people must "keep off the grass!" This report speaks for itself.

The public school system does an important and valuable work in educating the children, but it is now generally realized that something else is needed to supplement the school work. This need has led to the development of the playground, where childhood is given a chance to develop normally and where the lessons are unconsciously learned through the medium of the play. The future of a nation lies ultimately with its citizens and the training of future citizens must not be neglected. This is a governmental, not a private duty, and should be fulfilled by the municipality, not by individual initiative.

The committee therefore recommend :

I. That the city purchase at once, sites for parks and playgrounds in the tenement districts of the city and conduct such playgrounds.

II. That the School Board arrange to keep the schools open after school hours for recreation centers, and to conduct playgrounds in connection with the schools during the summer vacation.

III. That public baths be provided, both separate and in connection with small parks and playgrounds.

Respectfully submitted,

DWIGHT F. DAVIS, *Chairman.*

ANALYSIS OF CONDITIONS IN DISTRICT OCCUPIED BY NORTH END PLAYGROUNDS.

It may be interesting and suggestive to study more carefully and in detail the salient characteristics of location and people in that part of the city where the three North End playgrounds were conducted, to see how fully the demands of such playgrounds are justified, and, by comparisons with the work of other cities, along what lines this work should be continued and increased.

The three playgrounds—Ashley, Carr and Mullanphy (shown on the map)—are all situated in the third ward, the most densely populated ward in the city. This is also the most heterogeneous and cosmopolitan ward in the city, containing as it does, Negroes, Russian Jews, Germans, Irish, Poles, Italians, Syrians and Roumanians.

The most crowded quarters and the worst tenement in the city are also found here, while it is also the most unsanitary, and, in many ways, the most unattractive quarter. The map on pages 24 and 25 shows what might be called the district drawn upon by these three playgrounds—west of the river, north of Morgan, east of Thirteenth and south of Brooklyn—comprising all of the third ward and parts of wards 4, 15 and 16. District on map indicated by *

The third ward alone numbers over 23,000 people, and the district shown on the map numbers over 30,000.

An attempt is made on the map to give an idea of the crowded condition of this section of the city, and for this purpose the population of the district has been taken block by block, the United States census of 1900 being used, and the area of each block computed.

There are 92 blocks shown on the map :

- 7 have a density of more than 300 people per acre (shown in black) ;
- 23 have a density of from 200 to 300 people per acre (shown in dark blue) ;
- 28 have a density of from 100 to 200 people per acre (shown in red) ;
- 12 have a density of from 50 to 100 people per acre (shown in blue) ;
- 22 have a density of less than 50 people per acre (shown in white).

It must be borne in mind that the densities above given are for the total area of the block, irrespective of whether the block is entirely occupied by dwellings—that is, whether the block has vacant lots, or occupied by churches, factories, stores, schools, etc.

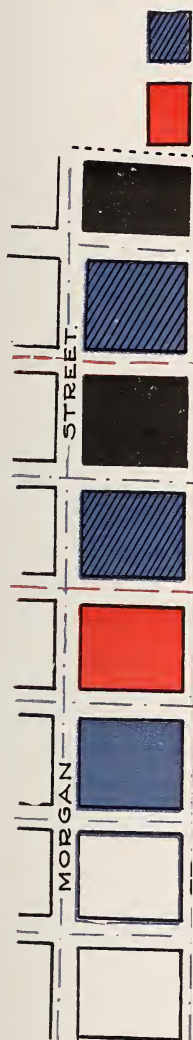
The densities given, therefore, are a minimum. For instance : The block from Broadway to Collins and from Ashley to O'Fallon is occupied by 458 people, and the density as used on the map is 328 per acre ; one-half of this entire block, however, is vacant, and has been










SCHOOLS



PLAYGROU







-  SCHOOLS
 PLAYGROUNDS

-  DENSITY OF OVER 300 PER ACRE.
 " " 200-300 " "
 " " 100-200 " "
 " " 50-100 " "
 " " LESS THAN 50 PER ACRE & OCCUPIED BY FACTORIES ETC. NOT BY DWELLINGS.

MAP OF DISTRICT OF NORTH END PLAYGROUNDS OF CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE



-  STREETS
 ASPHALT
 GRANITE
 UNPAVED

used by the playground, which, therefore, makes the actual density of population 656 per acre.

This is particularly true of many other blocks in this district, where, however, the lot is not vacant, but occupied by other buildings.

Each of the 22 blocks shown in white, having a density of less than 50 people per acre, was specially investigated, and the results are as follows :

- 1 is entirely used by Biddle Market ;
- 6 are entirely used by foundries, lumber yards and factories ;
- 9 are used by stores and factories ;
- 6 (east of Broadway) are used largely by stores, warehouses and the railroads.

To make the matter still clearer, if a map were made showing the density of population in those parts of the city where the more well-to-do live, almost the entire map would be white—that is, with a density of less than 50 people per acre.

The school districts embraced in this area are almost the entire Shields district and part of the Jefferson, Douglas and O'Fallon. The locations of the schools are :

- Shields, Seventh, between Carr and Biddle streets ;
- Jefferson, corner Ninth and Wash streets ;
- Douglas, corner Eleventh and Howard streets.

These three are shown on the map. The O'Fallon school is on Fifteenth and O'Fallon, but its district lies partly within the section shown on the map.

The enrollment for these schools for the year 1902 to 1903 was 4159. It must be remembered that this is only a part of the juvenile population of this section, as it does not include a large number in the parish schools and the very large number not enrolled in any school.

The only park accessible to all this district is Carr Square, an open block from Fourteenth to Fifteenth and from Wash to Carr, being 305x372 feet ; while there are but few vacant lots, and these often in such a condition as to be most uninviting for play, even the streets being more attractive.

It has been found by experience in other large cities that large and well-maintained parks distant from the crowded parts of the city, even though every facility of rapid transit is offered, are not sufficient.

It will be seen on the map that almost all of the streets in this section are unpaved. They are always dirty, and in wet weather and early spring indescribable and almost impassable ways, but even then

JUVENILE ARRESTS IN FOURTH DISTRICT

FOR
1901-1902-1903
BY MONTHS.
JUVENILE AGES
6 TO 14 INCLUSIVE.

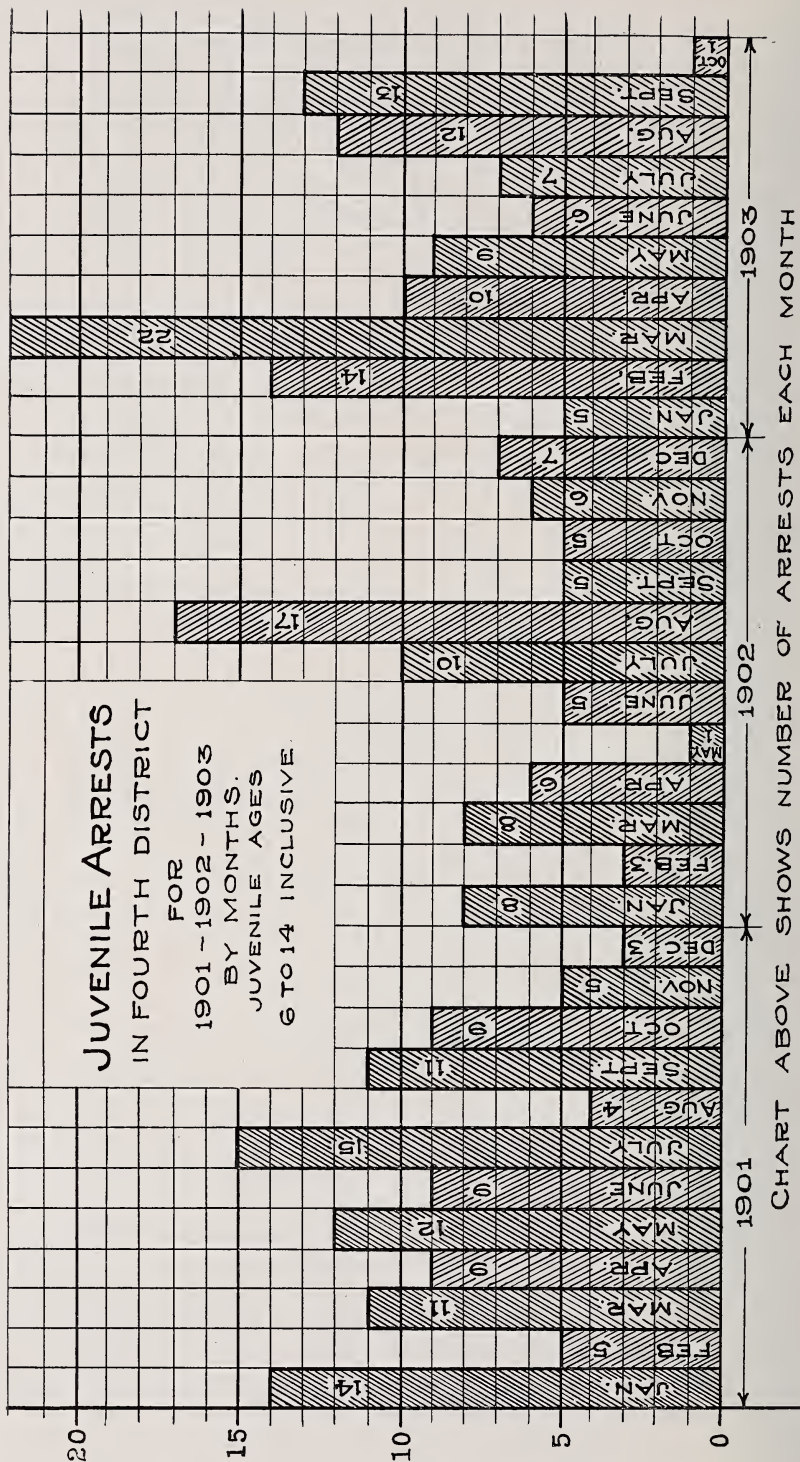
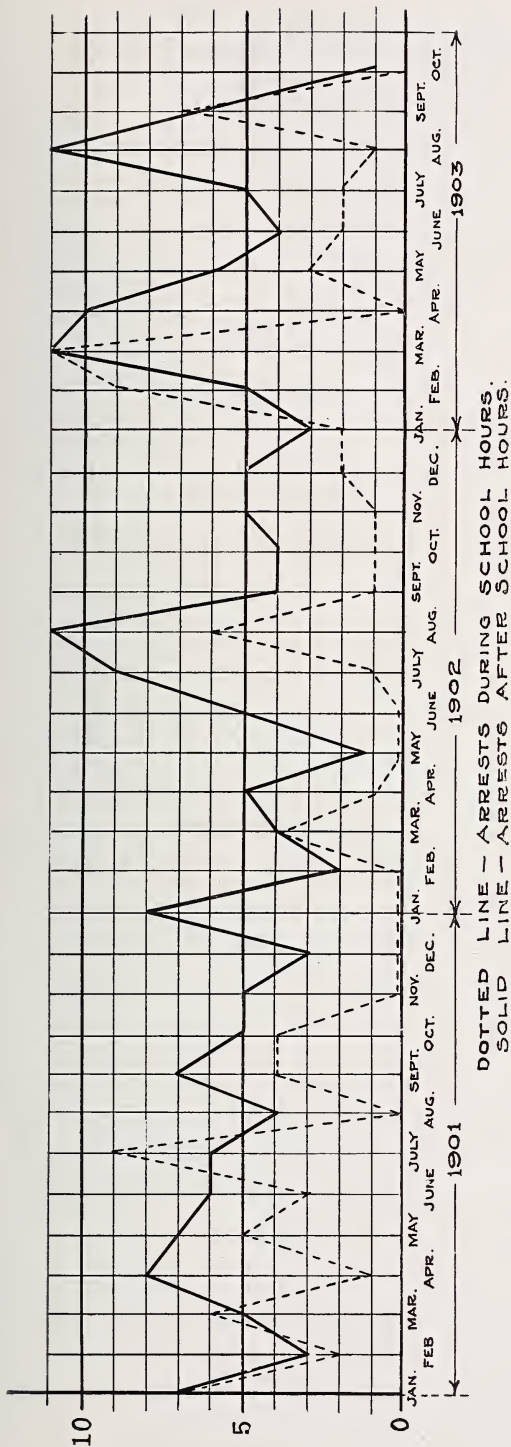


CHART ABOVE SHOWS NUMBER OF ARRESTS EACH MONTH



the only playgrounds the children have, and used as such by them for want of a better place to exercise their naturally buoyant and youthful spirits. A further objection to these streets for use as playgrounds is the trolley lines with their attendant dangers to the lives of the children, which will be seen (see map 2) to occupy *every* street running north and south and all but two of the streets running east and west. No other section of the city is so entirely grid-ironed, and, in addition to the cars, on many of these streets the trucking is unusually heavy.

The district in which we are interested lies mainly within the boundaries of the fourth police district, the station being at Seventh and Carr. An examination of the police records of the number of juvenile arrests, from six to fourteen years of age inclusive, shows that the number of arrests is greater in the summer months, when the schools are not in session. Not only that, but the police records show that during the school term the greater number of arrests are made at hours outside of the school day (shown graphically below, the solid line representing the number of arrests for

each month for the past three years after school hours, while the dotted line represents the number of arrests during school hours). It could therefore be expected that if the schools were provided with adequate space for playgrounds, open after school hours, during the school year, and open throughout the summer vacation, a material reduction of juvenile arrests would result.

The success and stimulating effect of playgrounds is now so well established by the years of experience in many large cities, and even to a limited extent in our own, that we feel that much need not be said about their desirability. We think, however, that the playgrounds of the Civic Improvement League have shown the need not only of more adequate playgrounds, but also the closely allied needs of greater school areas, small parks and clean and well-paved streets.

The schools, which, in such a section, should be the brightest, cleanest and most attractive centers for the neighborhood, are old, crowded, with but scant open areas about them, if any, and these paved with brick. The enrollment of each school is greater than its seating capacity, the attendance being greater in all but the Jefferson, which has but a small margin, as will be seen from the following :

School.	No. of Rooms.	Enrollment.	No. of Seats.	Attendance.
Shields	20	1,300	1,012	1,132
Jefferson	26	1,380	1,356	1,298
Douglas	12	726	578	658
O'Fallon	16	753	646	686

The School Board, now so ably conducted, is building many new schools, attractive in appearance and with open areas about them in many parts of the city.

It is generally assumed that the pressing necessity is for new schools in the rapidly growing districts in the outskirts of the city, and it is often forgotten that old quarters of the city, deserted by their former residents, are being ever more densely populated by the incoming people. The four schools in this district are over thirty years old, and the only recent increase was seven years ago, consisting of a twelve-room addition to the Jefferson school, obtained at the expense of much needed open area.

No doubt the condition of the schools in the district under discussion has received the consideration of the School Board, but possibly, by showing the great need, due to surrounding conditions, their attention may be brought anew to this problem of providing additional and more attractive schools and the making it a *sine qua non* of such to have the greatest amount of open space about each one.

In 1901, the City Council of Chicago received and adopted unanimously the report of the Special Park Commission, from which the following extract is taken :

“ We, therefore, strenuously urge upon the City Council and the Board of Education the adoption of the rule to be adhered to *without exception*, that hereafter no elementary school house shall be erected without an open air playground attached to or used in connection with the same, to be always maintained as a playground.”

It must be apparent that in public concerns, as in the business of a private corporation, the greater the use of the permanent investment, the greater the return. So it is also with school buildings. We now find other cities not only using their school buildings for six hours a day for five days in the week, and for forty weeks in the year, but also using them after school hours for recreation centers, open in the evening for recreation, games, reading and study rooms, and the holding of public lectures and meetings, and during the long summer vacations for vacation playgrounds, open all day and in the evening, and many of them equipped with baths, open all the year round, for the use of citizens.

Here in St. Louis, a city of 625,000 people, altogether by private enterprise and initiative, thirteen playgrounds* were conducted by about forty teachers, while New York, a city *only* six times as large, had 130 playgrounds, or 11 times as many, and 1041, or 27 times as many teachers to conduct them. It is interesting to note that this is a regular part of the school work—conducted by one of their district superintendents—under direction of their Board of Education.

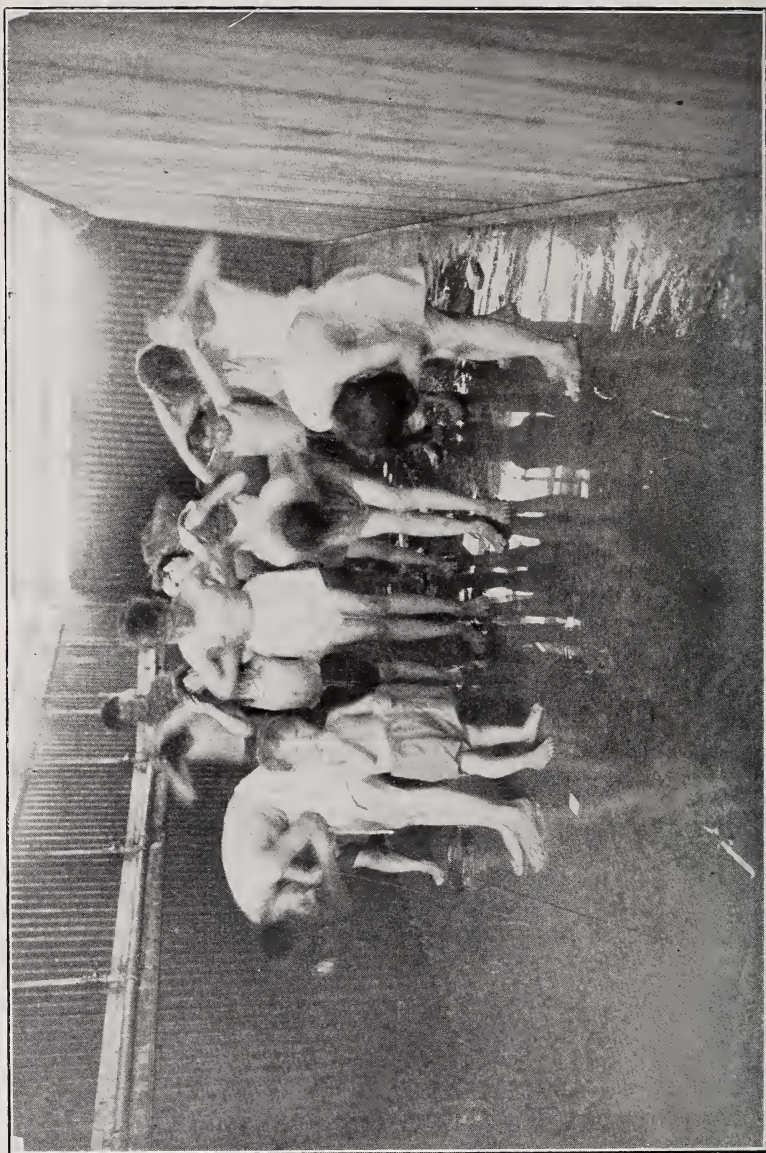
At a time when other cities are spending thousands of dollars in acquiring space in the crowded districts, our city seems almost wantonly to have gone in the opposite direction, for of three open squares that were located in the downtown district, but one now remains—Carr Square above referred to.

Of the fifteen cities in the United States having a population of 280,000 or more, St. Louis is the only one that during the past year did not appropriate money for the laying out of new parks—New York having spent \$5,385,000, and Cleveland, a city much smaller than our own, over \$450,000 for this purpose.

Further, of eleven cities having a population of 330,000 or more, the amount that St. Louis spent for the maintenance of its parks was (with the exception of Cleveland and Cincinnati) least, being \$115,000—while Boston spent over \$400,000, Chicago over \$750,000, and New York over \$1,350,000.

Our opportunity to increase our park area, particularly in the crowded parts of the city, is far superior to that of most of the other large cities. New York, in acquiring ground for one of its down town

* Seven of these playgrounds were conducted by the Vacation Playground Committee, chiefly in connection with public school buildings.



A TYPICAL SCENE IN ONE OF THE SIX BATH HOUSES.

parcs, had to pay nearly three-quarters of a million dollars per acre, but, notwithstanding such tremendous difficulties, its work of increasing its park area is being vigorously prosecuted. If we wait many years more before we attack the same problem, we shall have obstacles many times greater than at present, owing to the growing density of population and increasing cost of land.

A sound business policy would seem to dictate an appropriation each year, to be devoted to the acquirement of land in the crowded districts for parks, and a more liberal appropriation for their maintenance.

We cannot but feel regret at seeing our city stand by and do nothing but watch other cities providing in so many ways for the health, well being and better development of their citizens. It is without doubt an economic waste to wait until a time when the problem is so large, so complex and so difficult, that it can be met only by herculean exertions and a tremendous outlay.

A further question of vital importance to the well being of a city is the condition of its streets. The necessity of maintaining a healthful city, demands well paved and cleanly kept streets, especially in the crowded districts, in the sanitary conditions of which the whole city is interested, for the points of contact of the crowded section with other districts, though at first not apparent, are many, and often the means of carrying the evils of neglect of the one to the neighborhood of free space, well paved and well kept streets of the other.

To sum up, then, the few playgrounds conducted by the Civic Improvement League by voluntary contributions, have undoubtedly shown their vital necessity to the community and should be maintained by it.

They should be a part of the organized effort of the School Board in having attractive and adequate yards around the school buildings. The school buildings and grounds should be utilized to the fullest extent after hours during the school year, and the entire day and evening during the summer vacation.

They should be a part of the organized effort of the park department, in increasing down town parks and maintaining playgrounds therein.

Public baths, separate and in connection with playgrounds and schools, should be established for the use of men, women and children.

All streets should be well paved in the thickly populated section and thereafter maintained in good condition—and no less important—kept clean.

Private initiative has shown our city intimately what other cities have shown more remotely, how important a factor in child development

playgrounds are. Ultimately playgrounds can only be most successfully conducted by the city—*by all* the people for *some* of the people, by bringing to the crowded districts a few more of the elements conducive to better manhood and womanhood and to better citizenship.

GERARD SWOPE,
Member Playground Committee.

REPORTS OF DIRECTORS.

Each of the directors and assistants was requested to render a narrative and statistical report of the season's work. The committee regrets that it is not able to publish these reports in full. In order, however, that some impression of the work done may be gathered from the observations and experiences of those who have been in charge of these playgrounds during the past summer, the following extracts from the reports presented are herewith given :

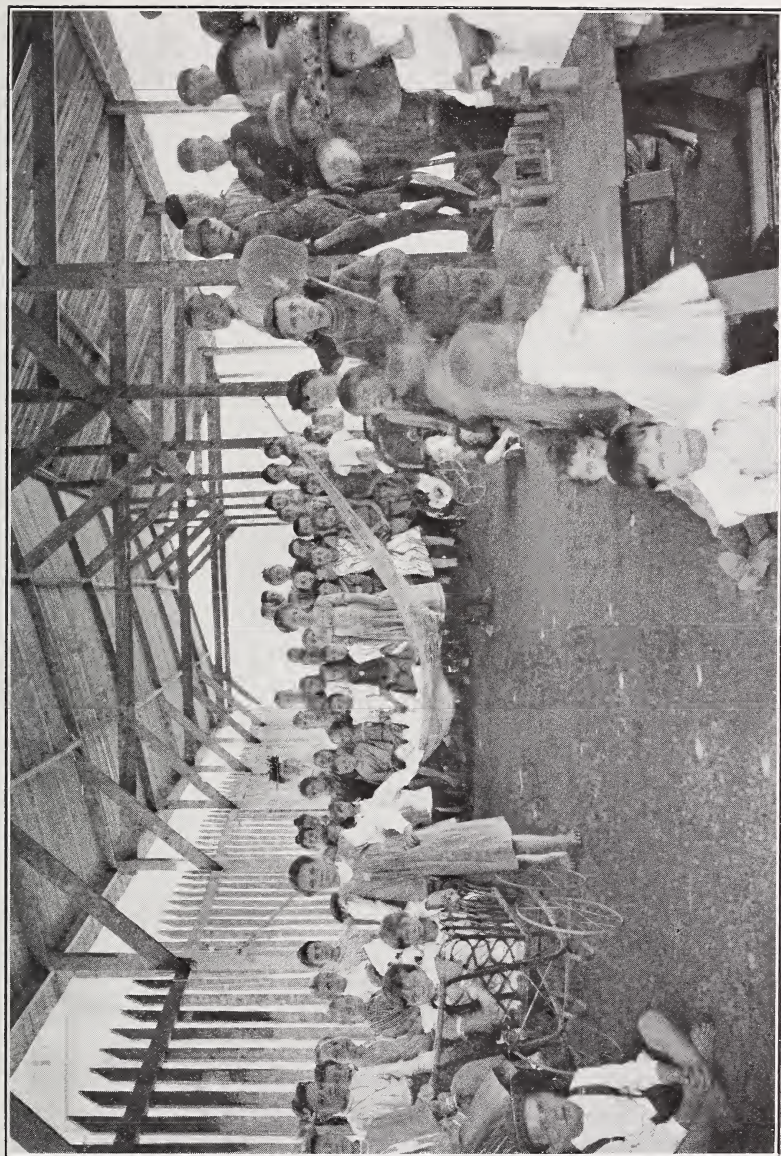
FOWLER.

From Report of Director—Morning Session.

The Fowler playground, located at the corner of Seventh street and Russell avenue, opened its gates to the children June 22nd. The close of the playground season showed a total enrollment of 800 different children for the morning session, the total attendance being 6062, giving an average daily attendance of 125.

The completion of the bath house was hailed with delight, and all were anxious to avail themselves of the opportunity to take a bath. Many of them already knew the delight of a shower bath. Some were just the least bit timid, but once under the water all fears were dispelled and they were loath to leave it. While bathing was enjoyed by many, there was still a large number whose parents at first would not permit them to bathe. The total number of baths given during the season was 1184.

The library and store room, ample shelter on either side of the lot, plenty of benches and tables, all tended to make the playground an ideal spot, where the children could come together and play with the freedom that could not be enjoyed in their own crowded tenement yards. The library, with its collection of books suited to both young and old, proved a constant source of enjoyment. The young children spent a part of each day sitting upon the library floor looking at the pictures, exchanging books one with another. The older ones were permitted to take the books home.



UNDER THE SHELTER OF THE FOWLER PLAYGROUNDS.

One of the chief difficulties that met us in our work was the irregularity of attendance. Upon investigation, it was discovered that many of the parents were not willing to have their children spend all their time at play. On Mondays and Saturdays the attendance was usually small, owing to the fact that wash day and scrubbing day kept many of them home. When the playground had been properly organized and classes formed for work, there was a marked improvement in the daily attendance.

Each day of the week had its special attraction. Monday, physical culture and calisthenic drill, under the direction of Miss Elsa Pohl, formed a very important feature of the playground work. Miss Pohl's work in gymnastics and calisthenics was excellent in every detail. The children looked forward to her coming with great pleasure. One little girl said: "I got up at five o'clock and helped mamma with the washing, so I could come to the drill." Tuesday, "Paper doll day." This class was under the supervision of Miss Kate Fisse. Wednesday, a class in raffia for the large girls. Hats, satchels and picture frames were made. Miss Jennie Billings and Miss Mary Hamilton were the instructors. Thursday, a sewing class for little six-year-olds. They were taught to make doll dresses; the older girls took charge. Friday—this day was set aside for our outings. There were five outings, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed, especially the one to LeClaire, Illinois. These outings not only gave pleasure to the children, but many of the mothers accompanied us and enjoyed a day's recreation.

Two very important events were the band concerts given by the Musicians' Benefit Association. The grounds were comfortably filled. The music was enjoyed and appreciated by both young and old. One of the most encouraging results of the summer's work was the formation of a Mothers' Club. A meeting was called, and fourteen mothers reported. A short talk was given, explaining the object and benefits of the playground work. A desire on the part of the mothers to assist and co-operate with us led to the organization of the club. The club proceeded to elect a president, secretary and treasurer. All were loud in their expressions of gratitude for the benefits received by their children. All voiced the hope that the playground would be continued another year. The success and good results obtained in our work were due in a great part to the valuable service rendered by the volunteers who assisted us.

Flowers brought to the playground every week by Miss Fisse were received with great pleasure by the children.

IDA F. PAVEY, *Director.*

From Report of Assistant—Morning Session.

Particular attention was paid to cleanliness, neatness and order. The first thing on the program each day was a general cleaning up. All paper and scraps were picked up and placed in a bag made for the purpose. The girls swept and the boys carried away the debris in a wheel-barrow. Shovels were very popular with the boys. While the older children were working, the younger children were gathered in groups playing "Playgrounds."

The songs were well sung, the words and tunes being rendered correctly without any assistance.

I think it would be well in the future, if possible, to let the children plant seeds, and take care of their own plants.

The children at the Fowler playground need more free play than children of some of the other playgrounds do. I visited in the homes of many families in our district whose children did not attend the playground. With few exceptions these children were working. The mothers said they could not spare the children; play would make them lazy. But I believe there will be more children attending next year than there were this year. Many did not seem to know of the existence of the grounds. Where prejudice has existed it will wear away.

CATHERINE A. WOOD, *Assistant.*

LA SALLE.

From Report of Director—Morning Session.

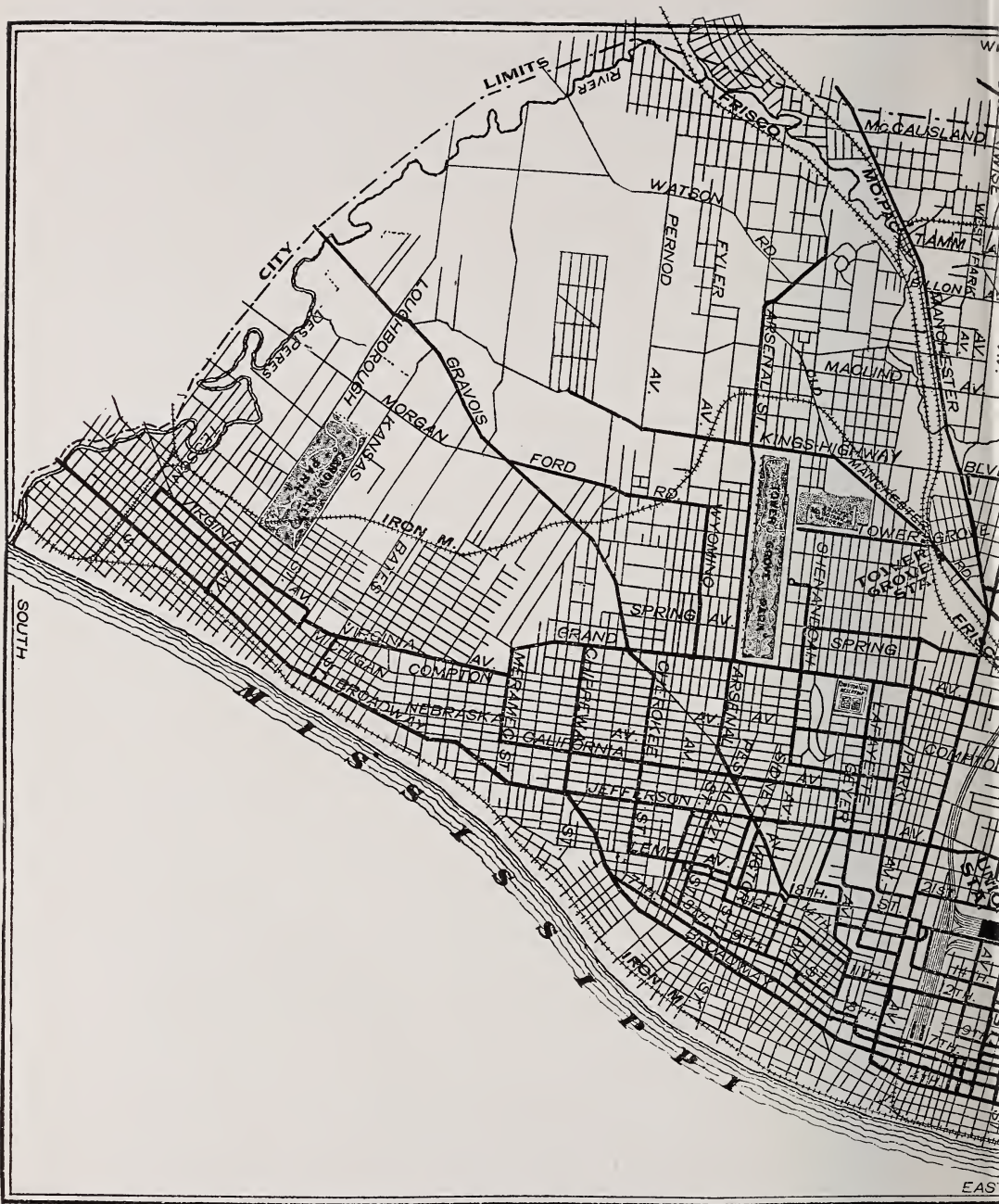
Toward the latter part of the season our gates were left open at noon, as many of the girls and boys from the factories of the neighborhood came to swing and make use of the see-saws.

During the latter part of the summer we introduced the raffia and reed basket work. The older girls enjoyed the work very much, some of them finishing three and four different articles. The bead work, I think, would be excellent for next year. A little visitor brought hers to the playground one day, and the children were much interested and rather envious. We kept all finished work until our closing day, when it was distributed and taken home.

Some kind friends sent us some dolls and a number of toy cars which were very much appreciated. The sand pile and these toys were a never-ending joy for the very little children.

Miss Westerfield, the assistant, and I are very grateful for the valuable assistance given us by the volunteers who assisted us.

LUCIE C. ROZIER, *Director.*



**MAP OF
ST. LOUIS.**

The map shows the city grid of St. Louis, Missouri, with the Mississippi River at the bottom. Key features include:

- Streets:** Major streets like Market St, Main St, and Olive St are labeled. Other streets include Delmar, Wabash, Hamilton, Forsythe, DeBattiere, Belmont, Union, Kings Highway, Easton, Taylor, Franklin, Spring Prairie, Garrison, Glasgow, Jefferson, and Broadway.
- Parks:** Forest Park, Fair Park, and D'Arbonne Park are shown.
- Cemeteries:** Calvary Cemetery and Bellefontaine Cemetery are marked.
- Highways:** The Lincoln Highway is indicated.
- Waterways:** The Mississippi River is shown at the bottom, with the Old River and New River also labeled.
- Other Features:** The map includes labels for various landmarks and areas, such as the "WORLD'S FAIR" grounds and the "FOREST PARK" area.

The map is oriented with North at the top. The title "MAP OF ST. LOUIS." is prominently displayed in the upper right corner. The map is a detailed street map, showing the city grid and major thoroughfares.

HIGGINS & CO. ENG. ST. LO.

[illegible]

From Report of Assistant—Morning Session.

The dedication exercises of the open air playground at Sixth and LaSalle streets took place the afternoon of June 20th. Several prominent men, Mayor Wells, Judge Foster, Mr. O. L. Whitelaw and others, made addresses and explained to the parents and children the object and value of the playground.

The opening week of the playground began June 22nd. The children, with the exception of a few Irish, French, Swedes and Poles, were of German descent.

The shower baths were a luxury to many of the children and it was a splendid opportunity, while showing many of them how to bathe, of instilling in their minds the value of cleanliness and neatness of person and property and of the influence of a clean body upon the mind.

One of the little girls has written me a letter since the playground closed telling me of a shower bath she has constructed at home by punching holes in a piece of tin and fastening it under the hydrant. "The baby, dolls and cat are given a shower bath every day."

The sand pile, in which miniature parks, World's Fair buildings, etc., were constructed, proved ever-popular, as also the many instructive games, as geographical and flag games and checkers, dominoes, lotto and halma.

Our hammock and go-cart were in constant use. I wish we could have had more of them for there were so many babies who, being sick and fretful, oftentimes were benefitted greatly by being out in the open air in a hammock under the shelter.

In addition to other treats, the LaSalle playground enjoyed a flower party, when each child was given a bouquet of flowers to take home. I think that in order to gain the co-operation of all of the parents of the children, at least one morning in each month should be set aside as a special day for the mothers to visit and explain to them the object of the playground and just what results we seek to obtain.

If an adult section could be obtained for the library, I would suggest setting aside Saturday afternoon for the young men and women in the neighborhood who work during the week and who usually, during the hot weather months, have a half-holiday Saturday afternoon. I think the grounds and library could be used to advantage in this way.

MAUDE WESTERFIELD, *Assistant.*

RUTGER.

From Report of Director—Morning Session.

The grounds were opened on Monday, June 22, 1903. When I reached the grounds the rain was falling in torrents, but the announce-

ment of the opening had been made and I found the children waiting, all huddled under one umbrella, while in the doorways around the neighborhood the children were standing, waiting to run in the minute the gate was opened. The rain continued, but we managed to get to Saint Stephen's House, where fifty-six children enrolled with us. The next day was bright and we were able to begin our regular session at the grounds.

From 9:30 to 12 the children who were not engaged in work or bathing, were allowed perfectly free play, anything they wanted, soap bubble pipes, bean bags, checkers, sand and lotto and other games were at their disposal. The occupations that I found most practical were paper dolls, raffia and basketry. Through these the child is able to exercise his originality and artistic ability. These tasks give permanent results and are easily handled out of doors. For the older children, I think work of some kind is absolutely necessary.

We had three celebrations at our grounds. One, a watermelon party given by Mrs. Kuper, whose children attended the grounds; another a golden rod party, and the last a stereopticon entertainment at St. Stephen's House, given by Mr. Mizner to celebrate the closing of the grounds. On every outing and one day each week, I was very ably assisted by Miss Helen Foster.

A mother of one of the children said to me that playgrounds in crowded districts were almost a necessity. She said the yards were very small and, with so many children living in a yard, they would quarrel, then each would claim the yard. Some parents would call their children in and these were deprived of the benefits of out-of-door play, while the other children monopolized the yard. She said the playground remedied all that, as the right of each child was equal.

The playground in the district of Eighth and Rutger streets is certainly very much appreciated. The children are obedient, responsive and altogether a pleasant class to work among.

NELLIE ALLEN HARPER, *Director.*

ASHLEY.

From Report of Director—Morning Session.

The first morning I was at Ashley playground I was greeted by a bright faced little boy with, "Say, teacher, I want my name taken." We sat down on a bench together, and while I was filling out the card with items he gave me, he abruptly asked, "Do you let kids bathe here?" and he was quite particular to know at what time in the morning he could have his bath. He then informed me that he had

“ another kid ” with him, pointing over his shoulder with his thumb to a boy sitting in the back part of the yard, “ what couldn’t have his name taken, ’cause he couldn’t come every day. ”

The children especially enjoyed the trip to LeClaire, Illinois, as the novelty of riding on the train seemed to appeal to them. The engineer who carried us over and back said to me that it was a most beautiful sight as he rounded a curve to look back and see their little heads looking out from every window.

During my association with the Ashley children, the most wonderful thing to me was the heroic manner in which they bore the pangs of hunger on our trip home from LeClaire. They had started for the train at 8 o’clock in the morning, each with a paper bag of lunch, and most of them had partaken freely of that small quantity before or soon after leaving the Union Station, so that many of them had been without food all day, except the watermelons and a few forbidden apples. Yet coming home not even the smallest child cried or even asked for food, but all adapted themselves to the situation in the most philosophical manner, singing the “ popular songs of the day, ” and in every way getting as much enjoyment as possible out of the trip.

Through the kind assistance of three friends, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Sperry and Mrs. O’Byrne, I was enabled to give the children several “ treats. ”

On the closing day the same ladies furnished cakes, the Union Dairy Company gave us five gallons of ice cream and the National Biscuit Co. contributed cakes. To this party we invited the afternoon session to join us and all spent a lively morning. The children spent many happy hours working with the clay donated by Mr. James Green, of the Laclede Fire Brick Co.

I am greatly indebted to the volunteers who came to the Ashley playground, for their efficient assistance.

MRS. AGNES KETCHUM, *Director.*

From Report of Assistant—Morning Session.

In spite of the fact that this was the second summer of the Ashley playground, we found that there was an erroneous idea prevalent as to just what the playground was and what was its purpose. It is not the children who fail to appreciate or take advantage of opportunities, but more often the parents. On the other hand, there were many mothers who were the firm friends of the playground, and who helped us in many ways. One, mentioning the good the playground was doing, spoke in particular of the raffia work, saying that she herself would like to learn. When she saw the results she said: “ If



WAITING THEIR TURN TO GET A SHOWER BATH.

only my children, when they were young, could have had a place where they could have learned to make purses and things like this, why you couldn't have kept them away, but some of these children don't seem to appreciate it."

The children enjoyed very much the Wednesday morning reading. Miss Chamberlain, one of our volunteers, made the children very happy by reading fairy tales to them. Even the larger boys would stop their play to sit and listen. The children of the Ashley neighborhood are naturally of rather an unrestrained nature, and therefore need restraint and work that requires concentration of their energies. They had this in Miss Pohl's Wednesday morning calisthenic exercises.

MARGARET PRICE, *Assistant*.

CARR.

From Report of Director—Morning Session.

The older girls would often bring with them babies not a year old. Many brought older babies. Putting the babies to sleep in the hammocks was a relief to "the little mothers," that they, too, might play and enjoy themselves. I found that all the children enjoyed singing and story telling, so we decided that once a week we would prepare a program and let the children invite their parents and friends. We always had a few visitors who enjoyed the entertainment prepared by the children. My volunteers, who assisted me most of the summer, were loved by the children, and proved a great help to me.

ELIZA MORROW, *Director*.

MULLANPHY.

From Report of Director—Morning Session.

This being a new ground, my assistant and myself did everything in our power to gain the good will of the people in the neighborhood, and the mothers in particular. We made visits to those in charge of missions, etc., in this vicinity, and made a house-to-house canvass of the neighborhood, so as to meet and become acquainted with some of the mothers. We early had the pleasure and satisfaction of receiving calls from priests, pastors and mission workers, teachers, doctors, mothers and fathers. All expressed themselves as pleased with our undertaking, and proffered assistance. Pastor Thumbby showed his good will in a very substantial way by letting us use on two occasions 150 chairs from his mission church.

We followed a regular program in our work. There were usually from twenty-five to fifty children on the grounds at the time of my arrival. These were mostly children who had gotten up and come

early because they were needed at home later in the day to help with the housework. By coming early they could enjoy a swing, a see-saw or maybe a friendly chat with other little acquaintances, and then get home in time to do what they must to help mother.

Some of these children would return a couple of hours later with the baby. They would take a shower bath and then get home in time to carry their father's dinner.

It has never been my pleasure to handle a brighter, better, healthier and happier lot of young Americans than came to us this summer. A vast majority were Irish, fun loving, rollicking, good natured. Should the Mullanphy playground be abolished and never heard of again, it would have been worth while in helping these children so thoroughly to enjoy this one summer.

Our location was simply ideal in many respects, and helpful. The young ladies who came on each Wednesday to play with the children made themselves so pleasant that the children looked forward eagerly to their return the following week. Of Mr. Timmer I can not speak too highly. He was helpful from the very day the grounds were opened. He would have the swings all up early in the morning, the see-saws in place, the park swings brought out of the storeroom and many other things attended to before 8 a. m. Through his thoughtful kindness, never-failing and careful attention to details he made himself loved by the children and valued by those in charge of the grounds. The mothers all, without one exception, seemed so pleased and relieved to have such a place for their children.

IDA M. MARTIN, *Director.*

From Report of Assistant—Morning Session.

Our needs as to equipment [were gratified when we received a check to be used as a playground fund. This fund is, we found, almost an absolute necessity, for only the directors who are actively in the work can really understand just what and when to purchase. It would be well if there could be some gymnastic apparatus (turning poles, bars or rings) for the boys who could and should be allowed a part in the playground so long as they do not interfere with the work.

Our young lady volunteers kindly kept us supplied with needed articles of equipment. Early in the summer they brought us a large consignment of peanuts and distributed them to the children, and on the closing day a liberal supply of stick candy. It is not necessary to add that the boys and girls thoroughly appreciated these gifts.

FLORENCE VAN SICKLER, *Assistant.*

From Report of Director—Afternoon Session.

The Mullanphy playground this year satisfied a long felt want in that district of the city north and north-west of Cass avenue. I make this broad statement for the reason that in that section the influence of the playgrounds upon those for whose benefit they were instituted was practically unlimited. The baths proved to be the greatest attraction on the grounds. Many of the smaller children who came looked as if they had no conception of the use of water except in that it was to be taken internally, and one little fellow particularly, I remember, was in the beginning reduced to absolute subjection when threatened with a bath. After the baths had been opened and a little persuasion had brought about his initiation into their mysteries, his good behaviour depended directly upon his daily admission to the bath house. The children fairly revelled in the baths, and they were hardly ever heard to mention the river with which all seemed so familiar, except in relating past experiences. There were seven shower baths and from fifteen to twenty boys were admitted at a time. The bath-house, library building, swings and the large sun shade were all situated upon a portion of ground next the alley between Cass avenue and Mullanphy street, while immediately adjacent and about four feet below was the large baseball ground. Young and old took part in the games played upon the latter and balls and bats were always on hand for those wishing to play. The interest in baseball was centered upon the Inter-Playground League games, which took place every Saturday afternoon. On those occasions large crowds turned out and the splendid encouragement which the team received was responsible in great part for their interest and consequent victory. There were many other games, quoits, ring-a-peg, tip-tap, checkers, lotto, etc., which were always in use and for which there was usually a considerable waiting list. The children were open to any suggestion in games and were always seeking new ones. Daring, rash in some cases, there was nothing which they would not attempt, and it was necessary to lead them carefully.

The swings were in constant use, and some essayed to "loop-the-loop."

The library was always open and a greater number had access to the particular books which they desired than if we had allowed books to be taken away indiscriminately. I should say that the library is a great success.

The Mullanphy playground was also open in the evening. There was a large electric light on the hill and the men and women had access to the swings and baths. Many were the testimonials of the appreciation of the men and the gratitude of the women who, with their



ONE OF THE SEWING CLASSES.

babies, found refuge here on summer nights. This evening session is an important addition to the summer programme, and Mr. Timmer's work in conducting it cannot be too highly commended.

LELAND WIND, *Director.*

From Report of Assistant—Afternoon Session.

The clay-modeling which I intended to do had to be given up, because the spirit of play and not of study was paramount, and furthermore the equipment was hardly suitable for such work. A scheduled plan of mental development was not tried.

At 1 o'clock the boys began to gather. From a yelling, eager crowd of applicants, I selected four "monitors" whom I took into the bath house to explain to them their duties. The positions were coveted, and the qualification of applicants were, besides some executive ability, a clean mouth, that is free from tobacco and free from vile language. Two of these monitors were charged with the care of the towels and soap, another distributed tickets and regulated the number of bathers who were to occupy the bath house at one time. The fourth boy had to preserve order inside and call the time limit. The bathing period was usually twenty minutes.

I suggest for the future, competitive games, such as, for instance, tug-of-war, foot racing and vaulting. I also suggest that the boys be trained to sing in chorus. soprano and alto voices, and good songs, not merely "coon songs." I further suggest the offering of some form of trophy for excellence in all work, including daily conduct in the playground.

MAX DELFANT, *Assistant.*

PHYSICAL CULTURE.

Early in the summer the committee had the opportunity of securing the services of Miss Elsa Pohl as physical director. The reports from each of the six playgrounds agree that Miss Pohl did most efficient and valuable work for the children. Following is an extract from Miss Pohl's report :

"From July 28th to September 3d I directed gymnastics in the six Civic Improvement League playgrounds. The results gained were, on the whole, very satisfactory, although I find that the German and Jewish children take hold of the work best. Gymnastics requires discipline, attention, obedience, and is to the pupil what the law is to the citizen. Hence, it is especially appropriate to children of this class, who, I find, are accustomed largely to having their own way

and obeying only their own inclinations, which breeds laziness and indifference.

“It seems to me that the way to help these children most is to keep them occupied, using both their minds and their bodies. It is detrimental to the children to have too much done for them. They should be taught to take pride in neatness, industry and helpfulness. In some of the playgrounds this is the case, in others it is notably absent.”

REPORT OF TREASURER.

Subscriptions,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$3122 54
Civic Improvement League,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000 00
St. L. A. A. A. Meet (net),	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	362 75
Interest on deposits,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6 50
Total receipts,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$4491 79

EXPENSES.

Construction and equipment,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$2835 29
Salaries of directors,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1413 80
Sundry expenses,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	145 76
Cash on hand,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96 94
Total,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$4491 79

THOMAS G. RUTLEDGE,
Treasurer of the Committee.



THE INTEREST OF THE CHILDREN WAS KEEN FROM THE START; A GROUP AT THE LA SALLE PLAYGROUND.

REPORT OF SECRETARY.

For ten weeks during the Summer of 1903, the Civic Improvement League maintained six open air playgrounds in the crowded down-town tenement districts of St. Louis. Three of the playgrounds were operated during 1902, while three new ones were added in 1903. The new playgrounds are models in many respects. The Mullanphy and Fowler Grounds are 250 feet long and 150 feet wide, while the one at Sixth and LaSalle is considerably larger, extending the whole length of the block, from Broadway to Sixth, with a width of 200 feet. High board picket fences erected around the playgrounds, enabled the air to get through freely, and at the same time permitted a full view of the grounds from the street.

The original plan of the committee, as it was begun early in 1902, contemplated only sand piles on vacant lots in the congested districts of the city. The evolution from this idea to the completed new playgrounds was interesting. On each of the new grounds in 1903 two buildings were erected, each 32 by 16 feet, one a bath house and the other a library and store room. Some of the buildings were plastered both within and without, and have permanence, as well as considerable artistic beauty. Leases were obtained from the owners of the lots, for periods varying in length, and the work was begun early in May. In nearly every case, the lots required a great deal of grading and filling. Shelters to keep off the sun and rain were built on all the lots. Two shelters were erected at Seventh and Russell, each 100 feet long and 25 feet wide. The six or eight swings which were built at each place, were of a very substantial character, and will stand a great deal of hard usage. Sand boxes, see-saws, turning poles and hand ball courts were installed. The large playgrounds easily accommodated games of baseball and basket ball, which were played at regular intervals. A great deal of the material required to equip the grounds was donated by local firms, and it is estimated that the cost of the labor and materials used at each of the playgrounds was \$1700.

The labor unions were as anxious to assist in erecting the buildings as they were last year, but as many of the men could work only on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, we found that it was impracticable to have the carpenter work and some of the other work done in this fashion. However, the Concrete & Cement Workers' Union volunteered to do the work on the bath houses, which would have cost us over \$200, and had it done at times convenient to us. This they accomplished by appropriating money from their own treasury and

themselves paying the men who did the work. We are also under obligations to many members of the Journeyman Plumber's Union.

The Concrete & Granitoid Contractors' Association supplied all the concrete, cement and granitoid needed in the construction of the floors of the bath houses. Members of the committee superintended the erection of the buildings on the playgrounds, and succeeded in getting the work done at a very low cost.

MANAGEMENT

The committee has been unusually fortunate in the character of the men and women who had charge of the playgrounds as directors and assistants. The grounds were open every day in the week, except Sunday, from 8:30 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon, and some of the grounds were kept open at night for the benefit of the older people, and in certain instances, the baths were open to the men at night. There were two sessions each day. The morning session was for the girls and small boys under eight years of age. The afternoon session for the older boys. Women were employed as directors in the morning and men in the afternoon. We found that our most successful directors among the women were Kindergarten directors. A large number of ladies volunteered and assisted at the playgrounds during the entire summer. As the children all came from homes where they carried a large part of the burden of the household work, there was no special effort made to have them work, and the aim of the directors was largely to teach them how to play in the truest sense. The business men, the police, as well as the residents, have reported to us that the disturbances, which usually come from children of the crowded districts, were very much lessened since the playgrounds were opened.

The directors were given a free hand in carrying out their own theories, in the general conduct of the work. As a result, there was a great difference in the work done at the different playgrounds. The shower baths were always the most popular feature. At first it was very difficult to get the children of the tenement districts to feel that cleanliness really is next to Godliness, and they could see no reason whatever why it was necessary to have a bath every day. But as soon as they caught the habit they could not be kept from the baths, and at some of the grounds, it was necessary to open the baths early in the morning, in order to enable all of the children to get a shower before the day was ended.

Self-government was a feature of the work which proved to be very interesting. The girls, of course, were never difficult to manage, but the boys soon came to realize that it was "up to them" to see that there was no disorder on the grounds. Swearing and smoking were absolutely prohibited. The worst punishment that could be

meted out to a boy who violated the rules, was to bar him from the privileges of the grounds for several days. At one of the grounds, where there had been some trouble, the director announced one day that the enrollment was too large, and that he would cut it down by excluding the boys who gave him trouble, but he reports that no boys were excluded.

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANTS

The work of the directors was very ably supplemented by volunteers who came on regular days to the respective playgrounds and rendered valuable assistance to the directors in charge. Many of these volunteers were trained kindergarten workers. All were keenly interested in the work.

The list of volunteers includes the following ladies :

Misses Anne Augustine, Mildred Wertheimer, Irene Love, Mabel Wind, Lee, Margaret Whitelaw, Anne Ittner, Adaline Knittel, Mariam Rozier, Mary Karst, Bertha Rebstock, Helen Foster, Beall, Hunt, Aldah Witherspoon, Jennie Billings, Mary Hamilton, Kate Fisse, Flavin, Mary Harper, Nittell, Lillian Whitelaw, Chamberlain, Brown, Katherine Browne, Lou Billings, Daisy Ketchum, Mesdames Brown, O'Byrne and Sperry.

The committee was fortunate in having the active support of Theodore Timmer, at the Mullanphy playground. Timmer lived in the neighborhood and was familiar with the people and their needs. He also knew all of the "toughs" of the third ward. He was thoroughly able to handle the situation, and owing to his interest in the work and his willingness to devote his time to it, the grounds were kept open at night and for a month after the others were closed. The committee feel that by securing the co-operation of such workers the value of the playgrounds can be multiplied many times. An efficient man from the neighborhood, who knows all the children and their parents personally, and who is also keenly alive to the great value of the playgrounds and the baths is able to attract a much larger number of boys and girls to the grounds, and to render effective assistance in the management of the children after they have come. The committee believe that men and women of this type possess the key that will unlock the door to almost limitless fields of usefulness in the playground work of the future.

CONCERTS. The most important regular event of the week during the summer was the Monday night concert, given by the members of the Musicians' Mutual Benefit Association. Every Monday night, during July and August, twenty-five or thirty of the best musicians of the city gave their services free to the playgrounds. The attendance at these concerts was never less than 2000, and on one occasion, there were more than 4000 people present. There was

not the slightest disorder among the audiences, although all had to stand or sit on the ground. It was interesting to notice how appreciative the people of the tenements were of the music, and it was not always the popular rag time airs that elicited most applause. As was the case last year, the condition on which the musicians agreed to give the entertainments, was that the concerts should be given in the name of the Union, and that no acknowledgment should be made to the individuals who participated. Except for this agreement, we would take pleasure in recording here the names of the musicians who played.

The Board of Public Improvements put up an arc light at the Mullanphy playground and thus enabled the people of the neighborhood to use the playground at night as a park.

FOWLER DONATION. The large work that was accomplished this summer would have been impossible, had it not been for the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John Fowler, who bore the entire expense of the erection, equipment and maintenance of the playground at Seventh street and Russell avenue.

LUMBER A striking instance of the generosity of the friends of the playgrounds occurred in the case of the lumbermen. Many of the wholesalers and retailers had suffered severely in the spring floods, but a plan was suggested whereby the wholesale merchant or millman gave an order to the account of the playgrounds upon a local retailer, who thereupon sent the required lumber to the playground nearest his place of business, and later in the season the millman sent other lumber to the retailer in place of that sent to the league grounds. The scheme worked well and helped much to solve our lumber problem at a trying time.

ATHLETIC BENEFIT The St. Louis Amateur Athletic Association gave this committee charge of the financial end of the annual spring athletic meet of the association at their grounds in Forest Park. There were events for which the committee furnished first prizes, consisting of medals, and second prizes consisting of athletic goods of various kinds, donated by St. Louis firms interested in the cause. In addition to the track and field events, an exhibition game of tennis was played between Mr. Howard Elting and Mr. Dwight F. Davis. The meet was well patronized and netted the committee \$362.75.

OUTINGS. Seven outings were given the children during the summer. They were taken to Delmar Garden, to LeClaire, Illinois, the Chain of Rocks, O'Fallon Park, Forest Park, and to some of the Fresh Air Mission excursions on the river. Through the courtesy of Mr. S. M. Robison, the boys enjoyed a baseball game between the St. Louis and Cincinnati teams.

THE LE CLAIRE TRIP.

The Wabash Railroad agreed to furnish transportation for the children to Mr. N. O. Nelson's place in LeClaire, near Edwardsville, Illinois, provided the committee could procure the passenger coaches elsewhere. Mr. Luther Ely Smith, of the committee persuaded the Frisco System to furnish eight coaches and the Missouri-Pacific System four coaches, and on August 27th, the expedition started. The playgrounds were all well represented by the children, and by many mothers. The mothers who went were a great help in assisting to take care of the small children. There were 769 passengers on the train. Mr. Nelson met his guests at Edwardsville and accompanied them on their walk of three-quarters of a mile to LeClaire. About 200 boys immediately escaped to the pond and spent most of the day in the water. All the children were required to bring their own lunches. Mr. Nelson had generously provided a stock of fine watermelons and when his supply ran low, forthwith ordered another load, and there were no melons left.

There were baseball games and all manner of other games, walks in the woods, and a general enjoyment of a fine day in the country. The children acquitted themselves most creditably. The unanimous verdict rendered by the 769 visitors was that Mr. Nelson was an ideal host.

BASEBALL LEAGUE

Great interest was aroused among the various grounds by the game of baseball. A league was organized and each of the six playgrounds promptly produced a nine, anxious to win the pennant. All of the games, except the last, were played on the playgrounds. The result of the regular series proved to be a tie between the Fowler and Mullanphy playgrounds. This tie was played off at O'Fallon Park on August 29th, and resulted in a victory for the "Mullanphys," who thus became the "champions of the league."

On the 3rd of September the playgrounds were closed with appropriate exercises, and the public schools and kindergartens will take care of the children until next summer.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS G. RUTLEDGE, *Secretary Playground Committee.*



BASEBALL WAS ENCOURAGED AND GAMES BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT GROUNDS
WERE PLAYED ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

From the Judge of the Juvenile Court.

December 24, 1903.

*Luther Ely Smith, Esq., Open Air Playgrounds Committee,
Security Building, City:*

DEAR SIR :—At the request of the committee's efficient chairman, Mr. Dwight F. Davis, it was my pleasure to attend the opening, last summer, of three of the playgrounds, Sixth and Russell, Sixth and LaSalle and Tenth and Mullanphy. Several spoke at the meetings, among the number were his Honor, Mayor Wells, Mr. O. L. Whitelaw and myself.

I must say that I enjoyed the occasion no little, as it was quite a revelation to me of the immense good these playgrounds are doing in affording the irrepressible young, healthy opportunity for working off the excess of animal life and activity.

The Fowler playgrounds at Sixth street and Russell avenue were then approaching completion, but the others were fully equipped with swings, sheds, shower baths, etc., and the hundreds of little ones certainly seemed to feel that they had a good time ahead of them.

My experience in organizing the Juvenile Court and presiding over it for the first six months of its existence impressed me with the fact that these playgrounds in the open air are, and can be made to play, an important part in the reduction of the number of youthful offenders. In my opinion "an ounce of prevention" here, as elsewhere, "is worth a pound of cure." May the good work go on and none of us weary in well-doing is the sincere hope of,

Your well wisher,

ROB'T M. FOSTER.

POLICE REPORTS

A letter was addressed by the Secretary of the committee to Chief Kiely and Captains O'Malley and Johnson, of the police department, with reference to the work accomplished by the playgrounds during the Summer of 1903. Some of the replies are as follows :

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF POLICE, St. Louis, Oct. 13, 1903.

Mr. Thomas G. Rutledge, Secretary Open Air Playgrounds Committee :

DEAR SIR—In reply to your letter of recent writing, asking for an expression from this department in relation to the playgrounds in connection with the decrease of juvenile crime, beg to submit herewith reports of the captains, sergeants and patrolmen of the districts in which your playgrounds are situated, which speak for themselves.

From these reports I am convinced that the Civic Improvement League playgrounds are most commendable institutions.

Very respectfully yours,

MATHEW KIELY, *Chief of Police.*

Charles N. Thiel, patrolman of the third district, writes : " The playground at Seventh and Russell was a great help in the vicinity of

said ground, in keeping children off the streets and out of trouble and away from bad company, and the grounds were well attended by both girls and boys during the past summer, and should be continued.”

Sergeant Alvin Straughan, of the third district : “ There are three playgrounds in my precinct and my judgment is that they are a good thing, as they keep the small children off the street, where they are most exposed to accidents, keep them from wandering away from home, where they may see and be enticed to commit crime.”

Captain Michael O'Malley, commanding the fifth district, reports : “ The playgrounds have been of great benefit to the children residing in the neighborhood, and I consider them a great preventive of juvenile crime and disorder, as the children thus occupied will not be employed at mischievous acts.”

Sergeant Hugh McFarland and Officer Mealey of the fifth district consider the playground at Tenth and Mullanphy streets a great benefit to all the tenements in the neighborhood, and they report that juvenile crime has decreased a great deal in the district.

Other officers make similar reports.

LIST OF BENEFACTORS OF THE OPEN AIR PLAY- GROUNDS OF THE CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE.

This list includes only those whose contributions are not in cash.

Geo. W. Allen,	Hargadine-McKittrick D. G. Co.,
Wm. R. Allen,	Wm. G. Hills,
Barrett Mfg. Co.,	Holliday-Klotz Land & Lumber Co.,
Broderick & Bascom Rope Co.,	Harry Hoeb,
Mrs. F. W. Baumhoff,	Henry Hoesch,
Boeckler Lumber Co.,	George Hoesch,
F. C. Bonsack,	Jos. Hoesch,
Bry & Brother,	Hunkins-Willis Lime & Cement Co.,
G. F. A. Brueggeman,	Illinois Steel Co.,
Wm. Buchanan Lumber Co.,	Miss Julia Knapp,
Buxton & Skinner Stationery Co.,	Knapp-Stout Lumber Co.,
Carleton D. G. Co.,	Henry Krapf,
Albert Chase,	Krenning Grocer Co.,
Chicago Lumber and Coal Co.,	Laclede Fire Brick Co.,
Colonial Lumber and Timber Co.,	Levis-Zukoski Mer. Co.,
Concrete & Granitoid Contractors' Ass'n,	Libby & Williams Paper Co.,
The Crane Co.,	James A. Lynch,
D. Crawford & Co.,	J. Hal Lynch,
Cupples Woodenware Co.,	Louis E. La Beaume,
F. B. Dubach Lumber Co.,	Malvern Lumber Co.,
Ely-Walker D. G. Co.,	Joseph Maxwell,
H. P. Fabricius Toy & Notion Co.,	Hugh McK. Jones,
N. K. Fairbank Co.,	Meyer Schmid Grocer Co.,
W. E. Ferguson Lumber Co.,	Chas. W. Moore,
Forrest Lumber Co.,	Moore Lumber and Mill Co.,
Fresh Air Mission,	Mound City Paint and Color Co.,
T. H. Garrett Lumber Co.,	Mullanphy Relief Fund Ass'n,
Richard Gebhardt,	National Biscuit Co.,
Glencoe Lime & Cement Co.,	N. O. Nelson Mfg. Co.,
Goddard Grocer Co.,	David Nicholson,
Chas. W. Goetz & Co.,	Nicholas Scharff & Sons Gro. Co.,
Graham Paper Co.,	New Union Sand Co.,
Grand Leader,	Norvell-Shapleigh Hardware Co.,
Granitoid & Cement Workers' Union.	Charles P. O'Fallon,
Edw. A. Hausdorf,	O'Neil Lumber Co.,
	Paddock-Hawley Iron Co.,

Prendergast Lumber Co.,
 Harry Rappold,
 Rawlings Sporting Goods Co.,
 Rice-Stix D. G. Co.,
 Fred Reiner,
 M. S. Robinson, Mgr.,
 Adam Roth Grocer Co.,
 O. E. Rugg,
 Rumsey & Sikemeier Co.,
 L. M. Rumsey Mfg. Co.,
 F. O. Sawyer Paper Co.,
 Miss Marie Scanlan,
 Arthur Scott,
 George Scott,
 Oliver Scott,
 Scudders-Gale Grocer Co.,
 Scruggs-Vandervoort & Barney,
 Simmons Hardware Co.,

South Missouri Pine Co.,
 Souther Iron Co.,
 Southern Mo. Pine Lumber Co.,
 St. Peter's Sunday School,
 St. Louis Roofing Co.,
 St. Louis Transit Co.,
 Miss Elizabeth Scammell,
 Geo. S. Tiffany,
 Miss Eleanor Tracy,
 Trinidad Asphalt Mfg. Co.,
 Union Dairy Co.,
 Vane-Calvert Paint Co.,
 Ben Vogelsang,
 Louis Werner Saw Mill Co.,
 Miss Margaret Whitelaw,
 Miss Emily Wickham,
 Wisconsin-Arkansas Lumber Co.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS OF THE OPEN AIR PLAY- GROUNDS COMMITTEE OF THE CIVIC IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE.

Charles H. Bailey,
 Geo. D. Barnard & Co.,
 Joseph D. Bascom,
 Charles W. Bates,
 James W. Bell,
 Mrs. Anna E. Bent,
 James L. Blair,
 George W. Boswell,
 Judge Wilbur F. Boyle,
 Hudson E. Bridge,
 R. S. Brookings,
 Browning, King & Co.,
 James G. Butler,
 Butler Brothers,
 Mrs. Gouverneur Calhoun,
 Carondelet Foundry Co.,
 Geo. O. Carpenter,
 Daniel Catlin,
 Ephron Catlin,

Mrs. A. L. A. Chauvenet,
 L. E. Collins,
 Samuel Cupples Woodenware Co.,
 F. P. Crunden,
 Crunden-Martin Woodenware Co.,
 Dwight F. Davis,
 H. N. Davis,
 John D. Davis,
 Wallace Delafield,
 L. D. Dozier,
 F. A. Drew,
 Geo. F. & A. F. Durant,
 J. S. Dunham,
 Germania Savings Institution,
 Howard Elliott,
 Mr. and Mrs. John Fowler,
 Joseph M. Hayes Woolen Co.,
 Isaac A. Hedges,
 Geo. C. Hitchcock,

Robert Holmes,
Hoyt Metal Co.,
L. F. Jones,
Robert McK. Jones,
Claude Kilpatrick,
Koken Barbers' Supply Co.,
John F. Lee,
F. W. Lehman,
Joseph W. Lewis,
Lewis-Zukoski Merc. Co.
I. H. Lionberger,
F. H. Ludington,
Edw. Mallinckrodt,
Geo. D. Markham,
J. Lawrence Mauran,
H. S. McKittrick,
Mrs. Wm. McMillan,
Mermod-Jaccard Jewelry Co.,
Otto L. Mersman,
Robert Moore,
W. C. Morris,
I. W. Morton,

Paddock-Hawley Iron Co.,
Charles Parsons,
Eben Richards,
Rothchild Bros. Hat Co.
L. M. Rumsey & Co.,
Thomas G. Rutledge,
Miss Marie Scanlan,
F. D. Seward.
John F. Shepley,
W. D. Simmons,
A. C. Stewart,
Otto F. Stifel,
Charles A. Stix,
Gerard Swope,
Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Taussig,
Benjamin J. Taussig,
Dexter Tiffany,
J. S. Walker,
G. H. Walker & Co.,
F. A. Wislizenus,
Frank Wyman,

DIRECTORS OF THE PLAYGROUNDS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS.

MULLANPHY.

Mr. Leland Wind,	Mr. Max Dellfant,
Miss Ida Martin,	Miss Van Sickler.
Theo. Timmer.	

ASHLEY.

Dr. Edw. Skinner,	Mr. George Millbauer,
Mrs. Agnes Ketchum.	Miss Margaret Price.

FOWLER.

Mr. Philo Stevenson,	Mr. C. T. Darby,
Miss Ida Pavey.	Miss Catharine Wood.

CARR.

Dr. George W. Tremaine,
Miss Eliza Morrow.

RUTGER.

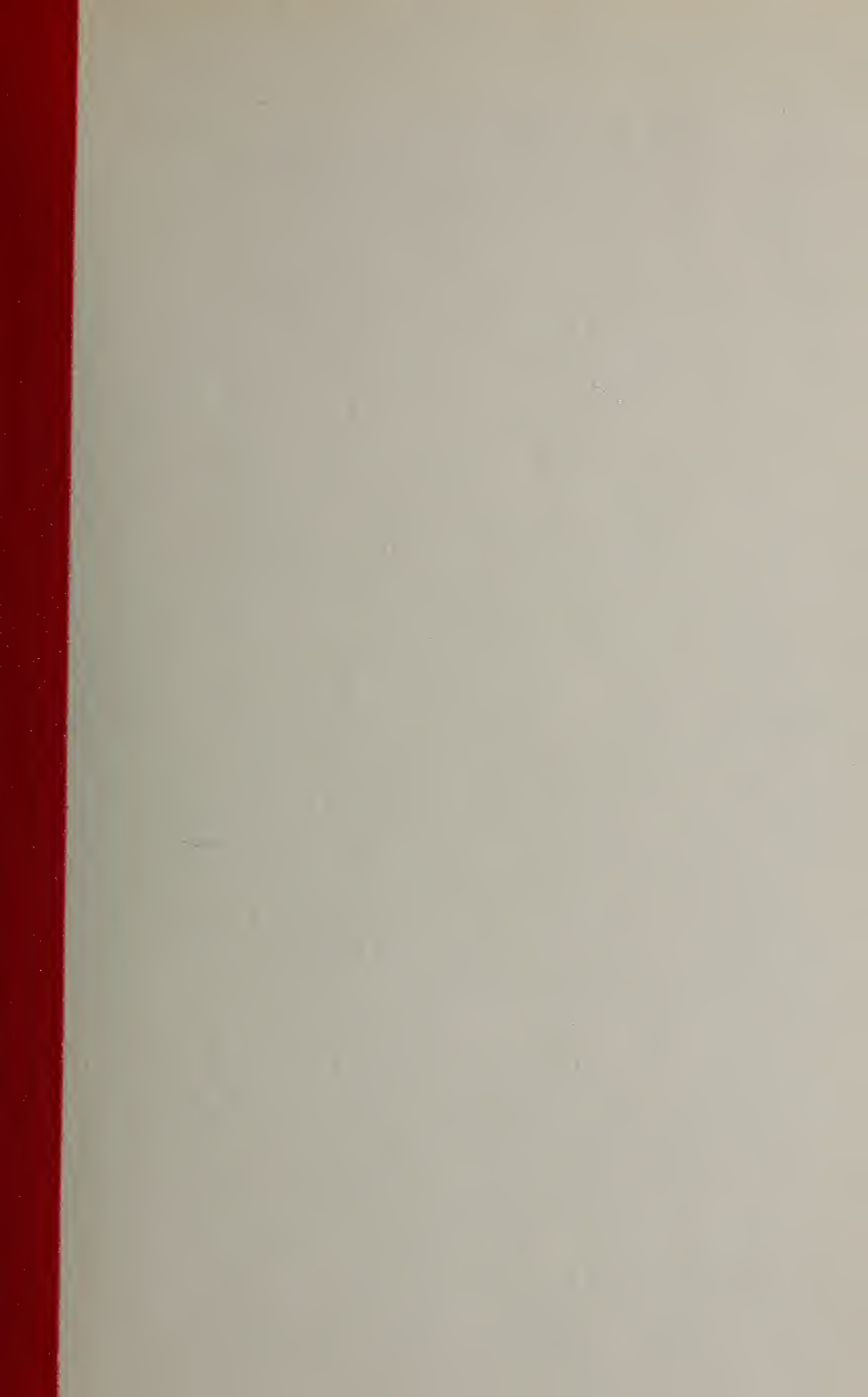
Mr. Max Ermscher,
Miss Nellie Allen Harper.

LA SALLE.

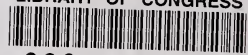
Dr. Lewis O'Brock,	Mr. E. B. Randall,
Miss Lucie Rozier.	Miss Maude Westerfield.

PHYSICAL CULTURE AND GYMNASTIC TEACHER AT ALL THE GROUNDS.

MISS ELSA POHL.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 029 712 998 3